

Assemblyman **PAUL KORETZ**

Forty-second Assembly District

proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks



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Koretz Introduces Bill to Prohibit Pound Seizure

AB 588 will implement a statewide ban on the controversial practice

(Sacramento) – Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) has introduced legislation that will institute a statewide prohibition of pound seizure, the practice of releasing or selling unclaimed cats and dogs from animal shelters for use in biomedical research, product development and safety testing, and educational demonstrations.

AB 588 prohibits any public animal shelter or humane society shelter from selling, giving, or furnishing any live dog, cat, or other animal to any animal research facility for the purposes of experimentation, research, testing or demonstration. A violation of the prohibition would be an infraction punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250.

“AB 588 is intended to prevent the pain and suffering of dogs and cats who are sold or given away by animal shelters for medical research and experimentation,” said Assemblyman Koretz. “Pound seizure is a deplorable practice that should be eradicated from our society. It isn’t necessary and we need a statewide policy against it.”

Pound seizure can undermine and overburden taxpayer-funded animal control because people in communities where pound seizure is practiced by the local animal shelter would rather abandon an animal in public rather than subject it to medical experimentation.

“Animal shelters, by their very name, are trusted to provide safe haven to lost or unwanted animals. There is hope for adoptable animals ~ they should not be given up on and sold for research where they will experience pain and discomfort. To do so undermines the public’s trust in the shelter system,” concluded Assemblyman Koretz.

“A shelter is supposed to be a place where lost animals can be found or homeless animals can find a new home. Selling our unwanted companion animals and exploiting the overpopulation of them for use in research or teaching is a betrayal of man’s best friends and a sad testimony to any shelter engaged in the practice,” said Teri Barnato, Director of the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights.

Pound seizure is prohibited in 14 other states. AB 588 is sponsored by Last Chance for Animals and the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights and will likely be heard in policy committee in late March or early April.